

SC Victim Service Coordinating Council MEETING MINUTES

2pm-4pm, December 15, 2008

Edgar Brown Bldg. Rm 415, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC

Present: Nancy Barton, Hope Blackley, Marvin Bryant, Vicki Bourus, Lee Caldwell, Barbara Grissom, Ashlie Lancaster, Jeff Moore, Tricia Phaup, Veronica Swain Kunz, Carol Woodard.

Absent: William Bilton (scheduling conflict), BJ Nelson (conflict that proceeded of meeting scheduling), Surleaner Smith (ill), Joanna Katz (conflict that proceeded of meeting scheduling), Dean Kilpatrick (out of town), Bob Rightsell, Sandi Wofford (out of town).

The meeting was called to order and the contractor read a statement regarding VSCC operation in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and Americans with Disabilities Act. Marvin motioned to approve compliance, Hope seconded, and all approved.

Barb motioned to approve minutes as distributed, and Lee seconded, with minutes being approved unanimously.

The contractor introduced the new staffer, Chandra McPherson. Introductions of all VSCC members were made.

Stephanie Cassavaugh gave a presentation on the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification system.

Proposed changes to bring bylaws into concordance with law were discussed. Jeff made a motion to approve changes as distributed, Marvin seconded, and all approved.

Barb provided information about a nominee to fill the vacant crime victim representative seat on the council. Veronica motioned to approve Tom Lucas as the representative, Tricia seconded, and all approved.

Hope gave an update on work done through the Credentialing Committee and the new Office of Victim Service Education and Certification. Several questions have come up regarding who needs to be certified. The council discussed legislation and options for addressing concerns. For some state agencies that delegate victim service duties to large numbers of staff and foresee difficulty in training these staff, several options may be in order. These agencies may wish to re-allocate duties so that these are handled by two or three staff persons per shift. Agencies may wish to use the SAVIN system for automated notification when possible. The Certification Committee might coordinate with entities that provide core continuing education for such state personnel (e.g., the Criminal Justice Academy) to identify ways that ongoing training may meet victim service certification

requirements. For public and nonprofit agencies that employ volunteers, legislation specifies that only “employees” are required to be certified. Volunteers are encouraged to become certified, and there is some benefit in doing so given grandparenting of existing victim service providers. Chandra will look into models for volunteer certification in SC and in other states. With regard to approval of certification courses by OVSEC, there was consensus that Hope could use her discretion in determining whether courses were appropriate for approval; if additional input was needed, she should confer with the VSCC’s Certification Committee.

The contractor discussed Legislative Audit Council recommendations and noted that these might take precedence on the next meeting’s agenda. A correction was made to the distributed notes on these recommendations, in that recommendation #4 should indicate that the VSCC considered this option in light of SCDC’s having been awarded a grant for the SAVIN system. The VSCC supports SCDC’s efforts through this grant to address recommendation #4.

Marvin motioned to adjourn the meeting, Vicki seconded, and all approved.